

Kindly add new claims 26-46 as follows:

26. An apparatus for packaging contact lenses in a plurality of contact lens containers, each container having a recess, a sealing flange about said recess, and a contact lens within said recess, a plurality of said containers being sealed in said apparatus to a contiguous lidstock to form a set of packages, said apparatus comprising :

a plurality of lifts;

a plurality of platens located adjacent to one another, each of said platens being individually supported by one of said lifts;

a plurality of discrete carriers, said carriers being movable within said apparatus onto said plurality of said platens, such that each of said carriers is mounted on a respective one of said platens , a single one of said containers being mounted on a single one of said carriers;

a lidstock maneuvering system for placing lidstock over a plurality of said containers; and

a mandrel disposed above said platens;

wherein pressure is applied to said lidstock and said flanges of said containers by said mandrel and said platens to adhere said lidstock to said containers.

27. The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein each carrier has a cavity, each said recess of said container being received in said cavity of said carrier.

28. The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said lidstock has a thickness and said container has a thickness, and further wherein said mandrel is selectively moveable between a retracted upper position and an engaged lower position to seal said lidstock to said containers, and wherein in said lower position, a pressure applied by said mandrel against each of said platens is maintained within a predetermined range by the respective lifts, thereby compensating for tolerance differences in the thickness of said containers and the thickness of

said lidstock to ensure that an adequate seal is formed between said lidstock and each of said containers.

29. The apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising a pressure transducer being connected to said lifts, and further wherein said lifts apply pressure to said containers within a predetermined range, as determined by said pressure transducer.

30. The apparatus according to claim 26 wherein said mandrel is heated.

31. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said lidstock maneuvering system further comprises:

a vision alignment inspection system having means for checking the print quality on said lidstock and for simultaneously checking for registration of said lidstock within said apparatus based on the location of said print.

32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said lidstock maneuvering system further comprises a printing system and a cutting system, wherein said lidstock is fed from a roll under tension into said printing system and said cutting system, and said vision alignment inspection system is located after said printing system.

33. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said lidstock maneuvering system further comprises a printing system and a cutting system, wherein said lidstock is fed from a roll under tension into said printing system and said cutting system and said alignment inspection system is located between said printing system and said cutting system.

34. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising a heat seal apparatus, wherein said lidstock is mechanically controlled after said vision alignment inspection

system to prevent misregistration of said lidstock in said heat seal apparatus.

35. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said lidstock is held in position by said lidstock maneuvering system over said containers until said mandrel contacts said lidstock in said engaged lower position.

36. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

said mandrel further comprising a plurality of dies each having a die cylinder;

said dies disposed above each of said carriers;

wherein said cylinders apply pressure, within a predetermined range, to each of said dies.

37. An apparatus for packaging contact lenses in a plurality of contact lens containers, each container having a recess, a sealing flange about said recess, and a contact lens within said recess, a plurality of said containers being sealed in said apparatus to a contiguous lidstock to form a set of packages, said apparatus comprising :

a platen capable of supporting a plurality of carriers;

a plurality of discrete carriers, said carriers being movable within said apparatus onto said platen so that said carriers are located adjacent to one another;

a lidstock maneuvering system for placing lidstock over a plurality of said containers; and

a plurality of lifts;

a plurality of mandrels disposed above said platen; each of said mandrels being individually supported by one of said lifts and such that each of said carriers is located below each of said mandrels;

whereby pressure is applied to said lidstock and said flange of each said container by said mandrels and said platen to adhere said lidstock to said containers.

38. The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said lidstock has a thickness and said container has a thickness, and further wherein said mandrels are selectively moveable between a retracted upper position and an engaged lower position to seal said lidstock to said containers, and wherein in said lower position, a pressure applied by said mandrels against said platen is maintained within a predetermined range by the respective lifts, thereby compensating for tolerance differences in the thickness of said containers and the thickness of said lidstock to ensure that an adequate seal is formed between said lidstock and each of said containers.
39. The apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising a pressure transducer being connected to said lifts, and further wherein said lifts apply pressure to said containers within a predetermined range, as determined by said pressure transducer.
40. The apparatus according to claim 37 wherein said mandrel is heated.
41. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said lidstock maneuvering system further comprises:
a vision alignment inspection system having means for checking the print quality on said lidstock and for simultaneously checking for registration of said lidstock within said apparatus based on the location of said print.
42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein said lidstock maneuvering system further comprises a printing system and a cutting system, wherein said lidstock is fed from a roll under tension into said printing system and said cutting system, and said vision alignment inspection system is located after said printing system.
43. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein said lidstock maneuvering system further

comprises a printing system and a cutting system, wherein said lidstock is fed from a roll under tension into said printing system and said cutting system and said alignment inspection system is located between said printing system and said cutting system.

44. The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising a heat seal apparatus, wherein said lidstock is mechanically controlled after said vision alignment inspection system to prevent misregistration of said lidstock in said heat seal apparatus.
45. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein said cutting system is located after said printing system.
46. The apparatus of claim 38, wherein said lidstock is held in position by said lidstock maneuvering system between said mandrels and said platen until said mandrel contacts said lidstock.
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